

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. canceled.
2. canceled.
3. canceled.
4. canceled.
5. canceled.
6. canceled.
7. canceled.

Please add new claims 8-17.

8. (new) A computer automated process for identification, management and retrieval of engineering drawings in digital format comprising the steps of:

b¹ (i) analyzing graphical and textual digital data in a drawing using a central processing unit to identify individual engineering drawings, to identify a series of discrete boxes within each engineering drawing containing predefined keywords and to further identify any text contained within the drawing and within said discrete boxes; and

(ii) storing the textual content in the discrete boxes in a memory means in a relational database such that the textual content of the discrete boxes is stored by reference to the keywords of each discrete box and wherein the drawings can be identified and retrieved by reference to the keywords and or the contents of the discrete boxes and or the textual content of the drawing.

9. (new) The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein:
all the graphical digital data is analyzed by the central processing unit to identify any horizontal two point straight line array or multiple line array longer than a predetermined figure and wherein the central processing unit then identifies all lines that connect the end points of the horizontal two point straight line to establish a closed rectangular region and wherein any closed rectangular region not bounded by a larger closed rectangular region is identified as the boundary of each individual engineering drawing.

10. (new) The process as claimed in claim 9, wherein:
the graphical and textual digital data within the engineering drawing is analyzed by the central processing unit to identify two vertically or horizontally adjacent rectangular regions with a shared border and wherein one such rectangular box contains a series of discrete boxes in an orderly arrangement containing textual content.

11. (new) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein:
the central processing unit identifies predefined keywords within the discrete boxes and wherein the textual information contained within each said discrete box is identified and stored in a storage means whereby the engineering drawing can be identified by reference to one or both of the keywords and the textual information.

12. (new) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein:
the textual information contained within each engineering drawing may be stored in the storage means to enable the engineering drawing to be identified by reference to the textual information.

13. (new) The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein:
the engineering drawings stored in the storage means may be located, retrieved and displayed on a suitable display means by reference to the exact textual information sought and wherein the textual information may be readily identified by suitable means such as highlighting.

14. (new) The process as claimed in claim 9, wherein:
the engineering drawings stored in the storage means may be located, retrieved and displayed on a suitable display means by reference to the exact textual information sought and wherein the textual information may be readily identified by suitable means such as highlighting.

15. (new) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

the engineering drawings stored in the storage means may be located, retrieved and displayed on a suitable display means by reference to the exact textual information sought and wherein the textual information may be readily identified by suitable means such as highlighting.

16. (new) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein:
the engineering drawings stored in the storage means may be located, retrieved and displayed on a suitable display means by reference to the exact textual information sought and wherein the textual information may be readily identified by suitable means such as highlighting.

17. (new) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein:
the engineering drawings stored in the storage means may be located, retrieved and displayed on a suitable display means by reference to the exact textual information sought and wherein the textual information may be readily identified by suitable means such as highlighting.
